

I am very extremely concerned about the proposed relaxation of the present FCC rules and regulations which would remove the remaining barriers against concentration of media. That relaxation/change means that one company can own all the radio stations, television stations, newspapers, and cable systems in any given area, which would mean that one company would control all the information a specific area might receive.

Why haven't there been public forums and open discussion of these changes and what is the big rush to make such changes?

In 1996 the FCC eliminated its rules on radio ownership. As a result, conglomerates now own hundreds of stations around the country. For instance, Clear Channel owns more than 1,200 stations. There are 30% fewer station owners now than before 1996. Fewer station owners means less diversity, less local news, and less local programming.

Ownership regulations were put into place in the 1940's after the United States had seen how some governments used domination of the media to control and pressure their citizens.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 1945 said that the "widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare of the people."

I earnestly implore you not to erode the freedoms and rights of the people of the United States to receive news and information from diverse sources and ownership - Do Not Relax the Current FCC Regulations!